



## Indiana Stadium and Convention Building Authority

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### **PLAN FOR EXPANSION OF INDIANA CONVENTION CENTER UNVEILED**

INDIANAPOLIS - A proposed plan for expansion of the Indiana Convention Center, to keep Indianapolis a leader in the convention and trade show industry, was unveiled today at the monthly meeting of the Capital Improvement Board of Managers of Marion County.

William (Bill) Browne, Jr., CEO of Ratio Architects, presented the plan. Ratio is the lead architect for the project, assisted by BSA LifeStructures, Blackburn Architects and Domain Architects. The construction manager is Shiel Sexton Co. Inc., in association with Powers & Sons Construction Company Inc. The project is being directed by the Indiana Stadium and Convention Building Authority, which also participated in the presentation.

Since its opening in 1972, there have been three major expansions of the Indiana Convention Center. The proposed next expansion (Phase V), which has received state and local funding approvals, involves the demolition of the RCA Dome in 2008, followed by the construction of a major addition to the Convention Center on that site.

When completed in 2010, the \$275 million Phase V expansion -- combined with the new Lucas Oil Stadium -- will increase the amount of exhibition, meeting room, ballroom and pre-function space operated by the CIB from about 725,000 square feet to more than 1.2 million square feet.

Exhibition space in the new Convention Center will expand by 254,000 square feet, including new street level space that is divisible into smaller halls. The combination of new and old Convention Center exhibit space will exceed 564,000 square feet. Coupled with 183,000 square feet of exhibit space that will be available in the new Lucas Oil Stadium, the CIB would then have more than 747,000 square feet of exhibit space available for conventions, trade shows and other events, placing Indianapolis 14<sup>th</sup> in convention space capacity across the nation, and second among the 13 cities with which it currently most often competes. The total exhibit space exceeds what was outlined in the original plan.

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The Phase V expansion also includes construction of an additional 63,000 square feet of meeting rooms, which will be built to support existing and new exhibition halls. This exceeds the amount of space called for in the original plan. With meeting room space also available in the Lucas Oil Stadium, old and new meeting space will swell to a net new total of 129,000 square feet.

“This expansion affords our largest customers growth opportunities and gives Indianapolis the ability to host larger conventions and two major conventions simultaneously,” said Bob Bedell, president of the Indianapolis Convention & Visitors Association. “This moves Indianapolis into the ‘big leagues,’ making us competitive with the largest convention cities and giving us an advantage over most American cities.”

An additional 103,000 square feet of pre-event registration and reception space is incorporated in the new design. Included is a new Capitol Avenue entry lobby and wider areas for conference registrations and pre-event administrative functions, increasing the space for such activities by more than 80 percent.

“I commend the Authority on the development of an excellent expansion program and thank them for including us in every step of the planning process,” said Fred Glass, president of the CIB. “The coin of the realm in the competition for convention business is the amount of exhibit space available. This expansion nearly doubles what we have had to work with in the past. It’s important to note that we also are adding enough meeting room space to complement the additional exhibit space.”

“The plan also allows for an enclosed street level connection from the convention center expansion to South Street and easy access to Lucas Oil Stadium,” noted David R. Frick, chairman of the ISCBA. “With convenient access to the new stadium, users of both facilities will have great flexibility and convenience.” Frick also said the ICVA’s current offices on the first floor of the RCA Dome will be relocated to new second level office space and a new central kitchen will be relocated to the second level.

Bedell observed that the Phase V expansion plan does not include space for a new ballroom. It was ultimately determined not necessary and thus not worth the impact to the budget, he noted. “The largest trade shows and conventions require exhibit halls instead of ballrooms,” he said, “and we believe existing ballrooms will service most events that need ballroom space.”

Construction of other components in the long range Master Plan would occur down the road as additional funding becomes available to the CIB.

The ISCBA is directing construction of both the Lucas Oil Stadium and the Convention Center expansion. Upon completion, the CIB will operate both facilities.